

REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-6, 8-12, 14-18, 20-22, and 24-31 are pending in this application, with Claims 1, 12, 14, 22, and 24-31 being independent.

Claims 1, 12, 14, 22, and 24-31 have been amended. Applicant submits that support for these amendments can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added..

Claims 1, 4-6, 8-12, 14, 17, 18, 20, 22, and 24-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. The Examiner asserts that the claims relate solely to the abstract manipulation of data. While not agreeing with this position, Applicant has amended the claims to recite features involving the input of electronic information to an apparatus and various processing performed with that information. Applicant submits that the claims are directed to statutory machines, methods, and articles and do not encompass mere abstract manipulation of data. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are requested.

Claims 1-6, 8-12, 14-18, 20-22 and 24-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WIPO Patent Publication No. 99/48296 (Shamoon et al.) in view of U.S. Publication No. 2001/0016851 (Gramsamer et al.). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons discussed below.

As recited in independent Claim 1, the present invention includes, *inter alia*, the features of forming electronic intellectual property management information from information relating to plural intellectual property items and adding the intellectual property management information to contents data. With this feature, it is possible to

easily collect license fees for all of the plural intellectual property items and to more readily prevent illegal use of the contents data. Applicant submits that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest at least these features.

The Examiner concedes that Shamoon does not disclose the use of a data field that is related to patent details. The Examiner therefore relies on Gramsamer as allegedly disclosing that feature. However, Gramsamer discloses the use of a unique ID (UID) in place of a patent number, to address the problem that a patent number is not unique among various countries. Thus, it is clear that the UID taught by that patent has a one-to-one correspondence with a single patent. Therefore, that UID does not identify plural patents and/or utility models, and that patent does not disclose or suggest at least the feature of forming intellectual property management information based on information relating to plural intellectual property items, as recited in Claim 1.

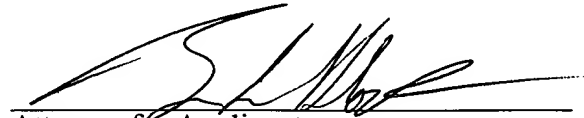
Accordingly, Applicant submits that even if the teachings of Gramsamer are combined with those of Shamoon, the present invention of Claim 1 would not be obtained. Therefore, Claim 1 is believed to be patentable over the art of record.

The other independent claims also recite features relating to plural intellectual property items, and are believed patentable for similar reasons to Claim 1. The dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as their respective independent claims, as well as for the additional features they recite.

In view of the foregoing, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the outstanding objections and rejections, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. L. Klock', is written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicant
Brian L. Klock
Registration No. 36,570

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
BLK/mls

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